

EXPORT OF GOLDENSEAL

Effective September 18, 1997, goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*) has been included in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The United States, along with over 140 other countries, is a member of CITES. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is the agency assigned the responsibility for ensuring that the United States complies with the requirements of CITES. Commercial export of species listed in CITES Appendix II requires a CITES export permit or certificate. In order to issue an export permit, two findings must be made: 1) that the specimens to be exported were legally acquired, and 2) that the export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild. In order to make these findings, certain information must be supplied with an application for an export permit.

For goldenseal, the Office of Management Authority (OMA) has established two methods of obtaining the required information. Either the exporter provides the basic information required for the export of goldenseal, whether wild collected or cultivated, with **each** permit application OR the exporter, along with each buyer and collector from whom the exporter obtains goldenseal, participates in a voluntary recordkeeping system (see below).

I. BASIC INFORMATION THAT MUST BE PROVIDED FOR:

- A. The export of any plant or parts, including goldenseal, taken from the **wild**:
 - 1. Specific location and date of collection and name and address of each collector.
 - 2. Copies of documents to show the goldenseal was legally collected (e.g., State permits or licenses, landowner's permission, etc.). *Be sure to correlate each document to the corresponding goldenseal.*
 - 3. For purchased goldenseal, provide the invoice or other document that shows the name, address, and telephone number of the person from whom you purchased the goldenseal and the date of purchase.
- B. The export of **artificially propagated (cultivated)** goldenseal:
 - 1. A signed statement from the cultivator or other evidence that the plants were grown in the United States.
 - 2. For purchased goldenseal, provide the invoice or other document that shows the name, address, and telephone number of the person from whom you purchased the goldenseal and the date of purchase.

II. VOLUNTARY RECORDKEEPING SYSTEM OPTION:

Exporters may provide the above information in a summary format **if** OMA has **reviewed and approved** the recordkeeping system used by the exporter. If the exporter chooses this option, a thorough description of the recordkeeping system used to ensure that goldenseal is collected legally and to track the geographic origin of the goldenseal must be provided with the initial application for an export permit. The Service must be able to track transactions from the exporter back to the collector through a records check. The collector and any intermediary dealers are required to keep records as described below. **This option is only available for export of goldenseal that originated from a collector/cultivator/ dealer who keeps the required records.**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service *must* be able to trace goldenseal from the exporter back to the collector.

- A. If you are **collecting wild goldenseal**, you must:
 - 1. Keep copies of appropriate documents (e.g., State permits or licenses, landowner's permission, etc.) to verify that the goldenseal was legally collected;

2. Maintain records on the amount (wet/dry), specific location, and date of collection of all plants and/or parts collected; and
3. Provide the buyer with the amount collected and the county and State of collection;
4. Sign a statement for the buyer verifying this information and legal acquisition; and
5. Maintain all records for 5 years.

B. If you are **artificially propagating (cultivating) goldenseal, you must:**

1. Provide the buyer with a signed statement that the goldenseal was artificially propagated (cultivated) in the United States and that the parental stock was legally acquired;
2. Provide the buyer with the county and State where the goldenseal was propagated; and
3. Maintain all records for 5 years.

C. If you are **buying wild or artificially propagated (cultivated) goldenseal, you must:**

1. Obtain and keep a signed statement from each collector, cultivator or dealer, including name and address, the amount purchased, the location of collection or cultivation (county and State), and verification that the goldenseal was legally collected or cultivated;
2. Set up and maintain a recordkeeping and inventory system so that you can provide subsequent buyers with information concerning legal collection or cultivation and the location of collection or cultivation so that purchases of goldenseal can be traced back to the original collector or cultivator;
3. Provide subsequent buyers or exporters information on the amount (wet/dry) sold, location of collection or cultivation (county and State), AND sign a statement verifying this information; and
4. Maintain all records for 5 years

D. If you are **exporting goldenseal, you must:**

1. Obtain and keep a signed statement from each collector, cultivator or dealer, including name and address, the amount purchased, the location of collection or cultivation (county and State), and verification that the goldenseal was legally collected or cultivated;
2. Set up and maintain a recordkeeping and inventory system that provides the ability to trace the goldenseal back to the original collector or cultivator
3. Once an exporter's recordkeeping system is approved, provide the Service a signed statement identifying the amount and location of collection or cultivation (county and State) of all goldenseal to be exported and verifying that all goldenseal intended for exportation was, to the best of the exporter's knowledge based on the information provided to the exporter, legally collected or cultivated
4. Maintain all records for 5 years.

NOTE: Records kept under this recordkeeping system should be available at the recordkeeper's premises at any reasonable hour for a representative of the Service to inspect, audit, or copy.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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